



2016 ~ May

The Bellnote Mini-News

UNIVERSALIST UNITARIAN CHURCH OF EAST LIBERTY
 2231 Jefferson Road, Clarklake, MI 49234
 (517) 529-4221 Located 3/4 miles West of U.S. 127

Minister's Column

This month's theme is "Blessing," but the truth is that every May I'm reminded of my blessings in life, because May is our Annual Meeting. I am blessed to serve this wonderful congregation, and I look forward to our annual meeting as a time to tell you so. May is also a blessing for our church, because we have our annual Auction in May, when we are blessed by the the generosity of our members and friends as they bid on them. I've gone to other church auctions over the years, and I can tell you that I was amazed the first time that I came to our auction. In other auctions, people bid on gift cards hoping to get a deal – they'll get a \$30 gift card for \$25 dollars, and thereby save five dollars. In our church, gift cards always go for more than the face value, because people bidding on them are practicing the spirit of generosity, knowing that they are blessing the church with their purchase.

The other side of the generosity in the auctions is in the donations. There are always things that don't sell at our auction, and I'm always sad for those items, in a way, that they haven't found a loving home. Usually this happens more as we get toward the end of the night, when people have already bid on more than they planned to, caught up in the spirit of generosity and goodwill that pervades our auction. But one trick, if you're worried about your item not selling, is always to not set a minimum bid. Tell people how much it's worth, sure, but let it sell for what the buyer can

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Calendar

- 1 Sunday ~~~~ Service ~ Lay Leader, Ellisa Alden ~ 11:00 am
- 4 Wed. Board Meeting ~ 6:30 pm
- 5 Thurs. AUUW Meeting ~ 12:30 pm
- 6 Fri. Annual Church Auction ~ Dinner @ 5:00 Auction @ 6:00
- 8 Sunday ~~~~ Service ~ Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum, Minister ~ 11:00 am
- 8 Sunday Caring Committee Meeting ~ After the Service
- 10 Tue. Meet Your Neighbor Coffee ~ 9:00 - 11:00 am
- 11 Wed. Outreach/Forum Committee @ JDL ~ 1:30 pm
- 12 Thurs. RE Committee at Carnegie Branch, Jackson Public Library ~ 7:00 pm
- 15 Sunday ~~~~ Service ~ Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum, Minister ~ 11:00 am
- 15 Sunday Adult RE Presentations on Health "Yoga" 12:30 -1:00 pm
- 17 Tue. Worship Comm. ~ Meets at Members' Homes in the Evening
- 19 Thurs. Membership Meeting ~ 2:00 pm
- 19 Thurs. Personal Care Ministry ~ @ 1st Baptist Church, 201 S. Jackson ~ 4:30-6:30 pm
- 21 Thurs. JXN Forum ~ "G.R.E.A.T." @ JDL, ~ 6:30-8:30
- 22 Sunday ~~~~ Service ~ Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum, Minister ~ 11:00 am
- 22 Sunday Annual Meeting ~ After the Service
- 22 Sunday The Bellnote Newsletter ~ Submissions Due
- 29 Sunday ~~~~ Service ~TBA ~ 11:00 am

Sunday Services at 11:00 am ~ Theme: Blessing

May 1 - "Would you Rather..." - Lay Leader: Elissa Alden - The focus of the day is on communication and the message/sermon is: Would you Rather...

May 8 - "Mother's Day: A Blessing for Our Children" - Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum - For Mother's Day, Rev. Cindy turns her thoughts to our children, the world we want to create for them, and the role of our church in bringing about that world.

May 15 - "Fostering Blessing" - Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum - May is National Foster Care Month. What role can we all play in fostering blessings in the lives of children and youth in foster care?

May 22 - "Small Blessings" – Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Landrum - Our small church brings many blessings into the world. Rev. Cindy will explore small blessings and acts of kindness this week.

May 29 - "TBA" – TBA

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 BOARD PRESIDENT - GRATIA KARMES
 R.E. - JACKIE JOHNSON

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Rev. Cindy's Column Continued...

afford. Maybe someone who really needed it, but couldn't afford the minimum you might have set, will walk off with something special, and it will be a blessing in their life. The way I look at it, it's the same write-off for the donor regardless of what it sells for. And if it sells for anything, that's more than the church received without it. And whoever buys the item got what they needed for what they were able to generously afford. That's a win-win-win, no matter what the dollar.

I'm not setting a minimum on my auction sermon topic this year (I seldom do). It's worth \$250, because that's the set rate for a UU minister's sermon when we guest preach, and I almost always do the auction sermon as an additional sermon to the number I would otherwise preach. However, my auction sermon has never gone for nearly that much, even when a coalition of people are bidding together, as they did for the topic "Zombies" several years ago. Sometimes it goes for \$100, sometimes \$150, seldom more, in my memory. This is perfectly okay – it's a gift gladly given to a church that's a blessing in my life – and if it only goes for a dollar, I'll hope that it's someone who hasn't gotten to choose a topic before and really wanted to. I always enjoy the auction topics I'm given, because they're usually things I wouldn't have thought of otherwise. I can assure you, I never would have preached on zombies!

Blessings to you this May,

Rev. Cindy

JXN Community Forums

..are free and open programs to encourage dialogue about the challenging issues of our day. The series is sponsored by the Universalist Unitarian Church of East Liberty and the Jackson District Library. All forums are held at the JDL, 244 West Michigan Ave., Jackson, MI and they are usually on the third Thursdays at 6:30-8:30 pm. Childcare may be available for a modest donation. Call Debby Sears at the library at 517-788-4087 ext. 234 for more information or see the JDL website at www.myjdl.com

Thursday, April 19 ~ 6:30 pm

"G.R.E.A.T"

The Grand River Environmental Action Team is celebrating their 25th year of challenges and opportunities to preserve and protect the Grand River Basin.

Co-sponsored by the Sierra Club and the League of Women Voters, Jackson Unit.

This will be held at the downtown branch of the library on April 21, at 6:30 pm.

Adult RE Presentations on Health

Continuing on the theme of health, Jeanette Lamphere, M.A., CHES, RYT, has been invited to speak on May 15 after social hour. She will talk about yoga which she has taught for many years. Jeanette says yago is the process of integrating body, breath and mind to build strength, balance and flexibility physically, emotionally and spiritually. This series will occur over the next several months on health. These presentations are being coordinated by Steve Kish and will include presentations by both members and guests. Each session will be held after our church service starting approximately at 12:30 - 12:45 pm, and lasting about a half hour.

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